PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DEAR

Ermanno FILIPPI, et al.

pplication of

Attorney Docket Q64333

Appln. No.: 09/852,014

Group Art Unit: 1764

Confirmation No.: 3989

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: May 10, 2001

For:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT U.S. Appln. No. 09/851,014 Attorney Docket Q64333

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Sloan

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Date: September 7, 2001

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